

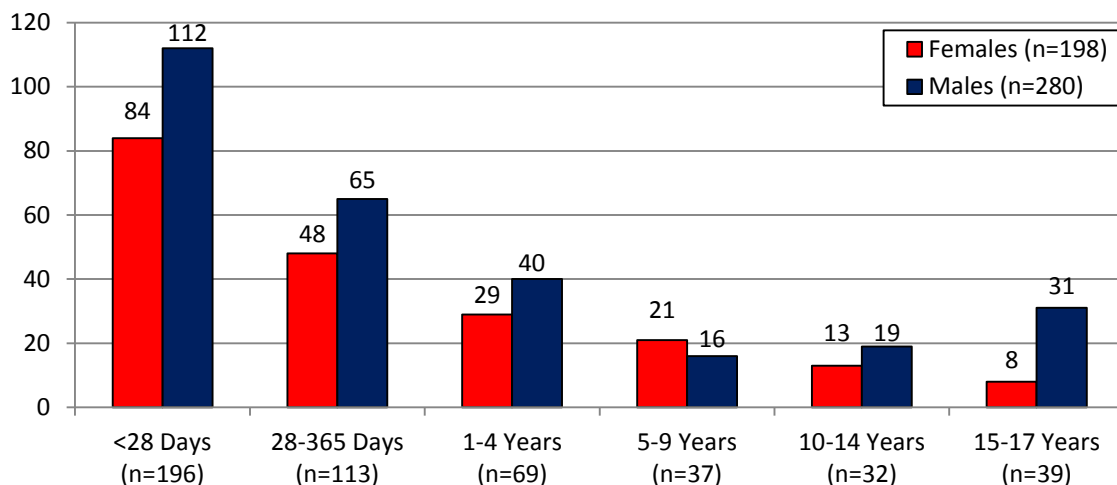


2011 CHILD FATALITY REVIEW FOR MARICOPA COUNTY

DEMOGRAPHICS

During 2011, 478 children who resided in Maricopa County died before reaching their eighteenth birthdays. Males accounted for 59 percent of child deaths in this county (n=280) and females accounted for 41 percent (n=198). Figure 1 shows deaths among children by sex and age group.

**Figure 1. Deaths Among Children by Sex and Age Group,
Maricopa County, Arizona 2011 (n=478)**



Deaths were over-represented among African American, and Hispanic children in Maricopa County in 2011. African American children comprised six percent of the population but 10 percent of the fatalities (n=50). Hispanic children comprised 41 percent of the population but 47 percent of the child fatalities (n=226). Asian children comprised 4 percent of the population and 4 percent of the child deaths (n=17). American Indian children comprised 4 percent of the population and 2 percent of the fatalities (n=10). White, non-Hispanic children comprised 45 percent of the population but only 36 percent of the child deaths (n=173).

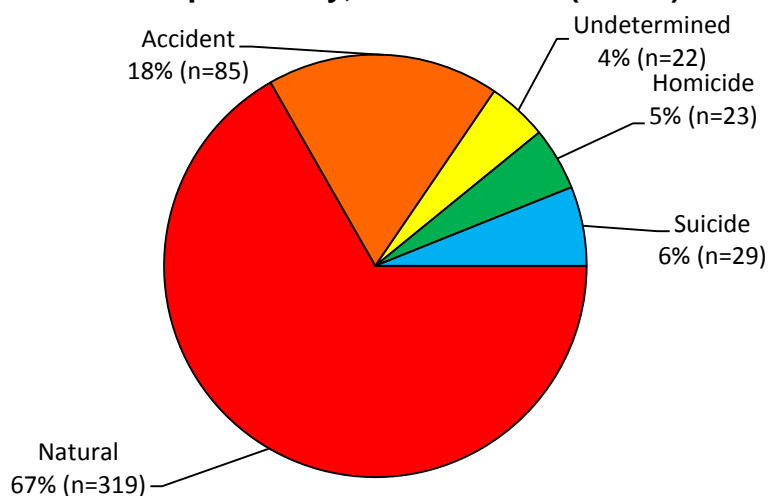
CAUSE AND MANNER OF CHILD FATALITIES

Cause of death refers to the injury or medical condition that resulted in death (e.g. firearm-related injury, pneumonia, cancer). Manner of death is not the same as cause of death, but specifically refers to the intentionality of the cause. For example, if the cause of death was a firearm-related injury, then the manner of death may have been intentional or unintentional. If it was intentional, then the manner of death was suicide or homicide. If it was unintentional, then the manner of death was an accident. In some cases, there was insufficient information to determine the manner of death, even though the cause was known. It may not have been clear that a firearm death was due to an accident, suicide, or homicide, and in these cases, the manner of death was listed as undetermined. Manners of death include:

- natural (e.g., cancer)
- accident (e.g., unintentional car crash)
- homicide (e.g., assault)
- suicide (e.g., self-inflicted intentional firearm injury)
- undetermined

Sixty-seven percent of deaths were due to natural manners (n=319), 18 percent were due to accidents (n=85), four percent were undetermined (n=22), five percent were homicides (n=23), and six percent were suicides (n=29). Figure 2 shows deaths among children by manner.

Figure 2. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Maricopa County, Arizona 2011 (n=478)



There were 319 child deaths classified as natural, including 188 from medical causes, such as cancer and asthma, and 129 from prematurity. Nineteen children died in motor vehicle crashes, 37 children died from suffocation, 20 children drowned, 9 children died from firearm injuries, 7 children were poisoned and 18 children died from blunt/sharp force trauma. Table 1 shows deaths among children by cause and manner.

Table 1. Deaths Among Children by Cause and Manner,
Maricopa County, Arizona 2011 (n=478)

Cause	Natural	Accident	Undetermined	Homicide	Suicide	Unknown	Total
Medical*	188	0	0	0	0	0	188
Prematurity	129	0	0	0	0	0	129
MVC/Transport	0	18	0	0	1	0	19
Firearm	0	1	0	2	6	0	9
Suffocation	0	35	0	2	0	0	37
Drowning	0	19	0	0	1	0	20
Blunt/Sharp Force Trauma	0	1	0	17	0	0	18
Hanging	0	2	0	0	11	0	13
Undetermined	2	0	29	1	0	0	32
Poisoning	0	4	0	0	3	0	7
Fire/Burn	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Fall/Crush	0	3	0	1	0	0	4
	319	85	29	23	22	0	478

*Excluding Prematurity and SIDS

Among the 19 motor vehicle crash deaths, there was one driver, 10 passengers and 7 pedestrians and one was unknown. Among the 10 vehicle passengers, two were sitting in the front seat, six were in the back seat, one was in a truck bed and the location of one child was unknown.

PREVENTABILITY

Child Fatality Review Teams consider a child's death preventable if something could have been done (by an individual such as the caregiver or supervisor, or by the community as a whole) that would have prevented the death. The local child fatality review team determined that 34 percent of the deaths among Maricopa County children could have been prevented (n=116).

During the review of each child's death, teams identify factors believed to have contributed to the death. Although the presence of a contributing factor typically led to the determination that a death was preventable, this was not always the case. For example, the team might have concluded that an unsafe sleep environment (e.g. infant left sleeping on a couch) was a contributing factor in an unexpected infant death. However, the team may not have had sufficient information (e.g. autopsy report, adequate scene investigation) to determine if the death could have been prevented.

In Maricopa County, substance use (including alcohol) was a contributing factor in 98 child deaths (21 percent), and lack of supervision contributed to 86 deaths (18 percent).

Co-sleeping contributed to 21 deaths (four percent), and lack of or improper vehicle restraints were a factor in 9 deaths (two percent). More than one factor may have been identified for each death. Table 2 shows the most common factors contributing to the deaths of child residents of Maricopa County.

Table 2. Contributing Factors for Deaths Among Children, Maricopa County, Arizona 2011		
Factor*	Number	Percent
Substance use	98	21%
Lack of supervision	86	18%
Co-sleeping	21	4%
Lack of motor vehicle restraint	9	2%
*More than one factor may have been identified for each death		

CHILD FATALITIES IN MARICOPA COUNTY COMPARED TO OTHER ARIZONA COUNTIES

This section provides comparisons between the deaths of children who resided in Maricopa County and the deaths of children who resided in the remaining 14 Arizona counties. During 2011, 478 children who were residents of Maricopa County died, and 330 children died who were residents of the other 14 counties.

Maricopa County had a crude rate of 48.2 child deaths per 100,000 residents, a lower rate than the remainder of the state (57.2 deaths per 100,000 residents).

Medical conditions accounted for 39 percent of child deaths in Maricopa County during 2011, this was a lower percentage than the remaining 14 counties (45 percent). Twenty-seven percent of the child deaths in Maricopa County were due to prematurity which was a significantly lower percentage than the remaining counties (39 percent). Suffocation was the cause for eight percent of child deaths in Maricopa County, a higher percentage than the rest of Arizona (four percent). MVC/Transport accounted for four percent of child deaths in Maricopa County, a significantly lower percentage than the rest of Arizona (13 percent). Table 3 shows the leading causes of child deaths for Maricopa County compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 3. Leading Causes of Child Deaths, Maricopa County, Arizona 2011			
Maricopa County (n=478)		Arizona, Excluding Maricopa County (n=330)	
Cause	Percent of Deaths	Cause	Percent of Deaths
Medical	39%	Medical	45%
Prematurity	27%	Prematurity	39%
Suffocation	8%	Suffocation	4%
MVC/Transport	4%	MVC/Transport	13%
Drowning	4%	Drowning	3%
Blunt/ Sharp Force Trauma	4%	Blunt/Sharp Force Trauma	2%
Hanging	3%	Hanging	4%

In Maricopa County, the largest percentage of deaths were natural (67 percent), and in the remaining counties, natural deaths accounted for 62 percent of child deaths. Accidents accounted for 18 percent of child deaths in Maricopa County and 22 percent in the remaining counties. Suicides and Homicides accounted for five percent of child deaths each both for Maricopa County and the remainder of Arizona. Table 4 shows deaths among children by manner for Maricopa County compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 4. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Maricopa County, Arizona 2011			
Maricopa County (n=478)		Arizona, Excluding Maricopa County (n=330)	
Manner	Percent of Deaths	Manner	Percent of Deaths
Natural	67%	Natural	62%
Accident	18%	Accident	22%
Suicide	5%	Suicide	5%
Homicide	5%	Homicide	5%
Undetermined	6%	Undetermined	6%
Unknown	0%	Unknown	<1%